Reservation of lower berth for old people

5231. SHRI S. M. LAL JAN BASHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand to make available lower berths in all reserved compartments for the old and handicapped ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railways have made any such effort to help the elderly passengers;

(d) is so, the full details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to help the old and handicapped passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (e) Demands are received from time to time to make available lower berths for old and handicapped persons in reserved compartments.

There is already a provision in the computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) to provide lower berths automatically to male passengers of 60 years and above and female passengers of 45 years and above subject to availability of accommodation at the time of booking. In addition, instructions also exist for allotment of lower berths falling vacant in the train due to non-turning up of passengers, to senior citizens and physically handicapped passengers by Train Conductor/TTE on first-come-first served basis. A reservation quota of 2 Sleeper class berths which includes one lower berth has also been earmarked in all trains running on non-suburban sections for physically handicapped persons performing their journeys on handicapped concessional ticket.

Fastest train between Mumbai and Goa

5232. SHRI LALIT SURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to introduce the fastest train in the country between Mumbai and Goa, that would run at the maximum speed of 150 kmph;

(b) if so, whether fencing along the track on the route, wherever necessary would be erected before the train is actually started; and

(c) if so, the cost involved in the track fencing and by when the same is likely to be completed?